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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,904	11/13/2003	David J. Baker	25090A	9434
22889	7590	04/10/2006		
OWENS CORNING 2790 COLUMBUS ROAD GRANVILLE, OH 43023			EXAMINER HALPERN, MARK	
			ART UNIT 1731	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/712,904	BAKER ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark Halpern	Art Unit 1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-18,27-33 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1) Acknowledgement is made of Amendment received 1/26/2006.

Claims 1, 27, 29, 31, are amended.

Claims 1-18, 27-33, are under consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2) Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12-13, 15-17, 27-33, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Van Dornick (3,525,604).

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12-13, 15-17, 27-32: Van Dornick discloses a melting furnace for refining palletized metalliferous materials. The furnace includes an upstream end,

a downstream end, and a roof. The exhaust stack is located at the downstream end, is located downstream of all the burners, and is in communication with the downstream end of the furnace. As shown in Figure 1, the location of the stack at the discharge wall, therefore it is 100 % away from the charge entry. The charge entry of melting materials and the burners are located at the upstream end (col. 3, line 62 to col. 7, line 12, Figures 1, 2). The charge entry apparatus reads on a charger, which is supplying glass forming material, slag (see Figures 1, 2). The furnace of Van Dornick is capable of melting glass, or in the least, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the furnace of Van Dornick be capable of melting glass, because there no specified structural differences between the instant furnace and the furnace of Van Dornick.

Claim 33: pressure differential in different parts of the furnace is a method and not a structural limitation.

3) Claims 2, 7, 10-11, 18, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Dornick in view of Pflugl (5,925,165).

Claim 2: Van Dornick is applied as above for claim 1, Van Dornick fails to disclose burner mounted in the roof of the furnace. Pflugl discloses glass melting furnace having multiple burners 9, 10, located and mounted in the roof of the furnace (col. 3, line 18 to col. 4, line 46 and Figures 1, 2). It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Van Dornick and Pflugl, because such a combination would provide for a more even heating of the melted material in the furnace of Van Dornick.

Claims 7, 10-11, 18: Pflugl glass melting furnace has exhaust ducts 25, 38 located downstream of all of burners (col. 3, line 18 to col. 4, line 46 and Figures 1, 2).

4) Claims 9, 14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Dornick in view of Hoke (6,519,973). Van Dornick is applied as above for claims 1, 12, Van Dornick does not disclose that the exhaust is located at a sidewall of the furnace. Hoke discloses a glass melting furnace where exhausts 145, 147, are located at sidewalls of the furnace as shown in Figure 7. It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Van Dornick and Hoke, because such a combination would improve glass quality in the design of Van Dornick as disclosed by Hoke (Abstract).

Response to Amendment

5) Applicants' arguments filed 1/26/2006, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants allege that the cited prior art, Van Dornick, does not disclose the invention because the invention discloses a glass-melting furnace, as for example in claim 1 preamble, however Van Dornick discloses a melting furnace for refining palletized metalliferous materials.

Examiner has given consideration to the claim preamble and deemed that the furnace of Van Dornick is capable of melting glass. Also, there is no structural uniqueness of the instant furnace that would not permit the furnace of Van Dornick to melt glass.

Applicants allege that Van Dornick does not disclose the amended claims feature of a charger supplying glass-forming material to the furnace.

The charge entry apparatus reads on a charger, which is supplying glass-forming material, slag.

Conclusion

6) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone number is 571-272-1190. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Halpern
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731